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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01948 141128Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 EA-12 EB-08 /108 W
----------010453 141137Z /14
P R 141055Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1720
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRPERITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1948

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, NP, IN
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BISTA SAYS NEPALI-INDIAN RELATIONS
"NEVER SO GOOD"

1. PRIME MINISTER BISTA, WHO LEAVES FOR INDIA APRIL
15, TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 13 THAT NEPALI-INDIAN RELATIONS
ARE AT THEIR BEST AND "HAD NEVER BEEN SO GOOD". PM SAID HIS
FORTHCOMING VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY OF A GOODWILL NATURE AND
"WOULD SERVE THE USEFUL PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL
RELATIONS" AND PROMOTING "STILL BETTER UNDERSTANDING." HE ADDED
THJG THE PRESENT CLIMATE OF RELATIONS WAS "VERY PROPITIOUS," AND
AN EXCELLENT SETTING FOR FURTHER COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY
IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD WHERE HE ENVISAGED "VERY MANY POSSIBIL-
ITIES."

2. BISTA SAID THERE WAS NOW "BETTER POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING"
BETWEEN KATHMANDU AND NEW DELHI AND TRACED THIS TO KING
BIRENDRA'S MEETING WITH THE NEW JANATA LEADERSHIP SHORTLY
AFTER IT TOOK OFFICE.PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S VISIT TO NEPAL
IN DECEMBER HAD GIVEN "A FURTHER FIV P TO THIS PROCESS." BISTA
HOPED THAT A "BETTER ECONOMIC CONNENT" COULD BE GIVEN TO THIS
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"EXCELLENT" RELATIONSHIP IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

3. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, BISTA SAID HE WOULD UTILIZE
VISIT TO INDIA, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR
JOINT ENTERPRISES IN NEPAL, PARTICULARLY IN PROJECTS BASED ON
FOREST RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE. THIS, HE SAID, WAS IN ADDI-
TION TO JOINT PROJECTS IN WATER RESOURCES UTILIZATION SECTOR,

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SUCH AS PACHESHWORE HYDEL PROJECT, BEMJKITS OF WHICH WERE TO BE SHARED BY PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, BISTA MADE IT CLEAR NEPAL DID NOT FAVOR ESTABLISHMENT OF "JOINT MACHINERY" TO SUPERVISE THE HARNESSING OF NEPAL'S POWER RESOURCES, BUT SPECIFIC JOINT PROJECTS MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN.

4. BISTA ACKNOWLEDGED NEPAL'S APPRECIATION OF THE "POSITIVE ATTITUDE" OF INDIA AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE JANATA GOVERNMENT. ASKED TO EXPLAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO U.P., BIHAR, AND WEST BENGAL, HE SAID THAT WHILE HE WOULD "ESSENTIALLY BE DEALING WITH THE CENTER," HE SAW "NO HARM" IN CONTACTING LEADERS IN THOSE STATES OF INDIA BORDERING NEPAL.

5. BISTA REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASE IN SMUGGLING AS A RESULT OF THE NEW DUAL SYSTEM OF EXCHANGE, SAYING THAT THE FACT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT TO CONTROL UNAUTHORIZED TRADE SHOULD REMOVE SUCH FEARS.

6. ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD PURSUE SB KING INDIAN SUPPORT FOR NEPAL'S ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSALK BISTA SAID HE WOULD "CERTAINLY TRY TO CONVINCE INDIAN LEADERS THAT IT WILL NOT GO AGAINST INDIA'S INTERESTS." BISTA ADDED THAT ACCEPTANCE OF NEPALESE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL SHOULD IN FACT HELP INDIA'S OWN PROPOSAL FOR A PEACE ZONE FOR THE ENTIRE REGION.
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NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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